



LEYDEN

Franklin County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Leyden is one of the northernmost towns in Massachusetts and abuts Vermont. It is an isolated rural hill town on the suburban corridor from Greenfield to Vermont and residents are proud of its lofty location in the southern highlands of the Green Mountains. The town was named for a town in Holland.

Settlement began late in Leyden because of the uplands, the absence of high quality agricultural land and its exposure to Indian attack. The settlement of the community in the early 1740's was not followed by any real growth until the end of the French and Indian wars brought peace and safety to the area. One of the earliest industries in town was cheesemaking. Famous sons of Leyden include John Riddell, the inventor of the binocular microscope, and Henry Kirke Brown, sculptor of the Washington and Lincoln statues at West Point and in the Capitol.

The town was the site of a Dorrite religious community established in 1792 and the entirely agricultural character these new residents found in the 18th century essentially extended into the 20th century. The town is still agricultural, producing beef, pork, wool and butter and making maple sugar.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Guilford, Vermont, on the north; Bernardston on the east; Greenfield on the southeast; and Colrain on the southwest and west. Leyden is 52 miles north of Springfield and 110 miles northwest of Boston.

Total Area: 18.00 sq. miles

Land Area: 17.99 sq. miles

Population: 662

Density: 37 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Amherst Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.9°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Colrain, Bernardston

Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 774-4111

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1809

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	394		
Democrats	67	17.0	%
Republicans	70	17.8	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	257	65.2	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Leyden town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	772	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	772	100.0
Male.....	390	50.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	2	0.3
Female.....	382	49.5	Mexican.....	2	0.3
Under 5 years.....	39	5.1	Puerto Rican.....	-	-
5 to 9 years.....	49	6.3	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	82	10.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	-	-
15 to 19 years.....	57	7.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	770	99.7
20 to 24 years.....	28	3.6	White alone.....	758	98.2
25 to 34 years.....	67	8.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	153	19.8	Total population.....	772	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	160	20.7	In households.....	771	99.9
55 to 59 years.....	46	6.0	Householder.....	277	35.9
60 to 64 years.....	31	4.0	Spouse.....	189	24.5
65 to 74 years.....	29	3.8	Child.....	247	32.0
75 to 84 years.....	23	3.0	Own child under 18 years.....	198	25.6
85 years and over.....	8	1.0	Other relatives.....	21	2.7
Median age (years).....	40.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	7	0.9
18 years and over.....	564	73.1	Nonrelatives.....	37	4.8
Male.....	285	36.9	Unmarried partner.....	20	2.6
Female.....	279	36.1	In group quarters.....	1	0.1
21 years and over.....	540	69.9	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	78	10.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1	0.1
65 years and over.....	60	7.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	29	3.8	Total households.....	277	100.0
Female.....	31	4.0	Family households (families).....	220	79.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	104	37.5
One race.....	766	99.2	Married-couple family.....	189	68.2
White.....	760	98.4	With own children under 18 years.....	86	31.0
Black or African American.....	3	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	17	6.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	9	3.2
Asian.....	1	0.1	Nonfamily households.....	57	20.6
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	45	16.2
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	13	4.7
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	111	40.1
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	46	16.6
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.78	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.08	(X)
Other Asian ¹	1	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	306	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	277	90.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	29	9.5
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	18	5.9
Some other race.....	-	-	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	6	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	-	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	277	100.0
White.....	766	99.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	253	91.3
Black or African American.....	3	0.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	24	8.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	1.0	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.84	(X)
Asian.....	1	0.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.17	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	-	-			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County, where Leyden is located, are State Route 2 and Interstate Route 91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway lines (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion of the county.

Major Highways

There are no state highways in Leyden. Local roads provide access to U.S. Route 5 in nearby Bernardston and to Interstate 91 in Greenfield.

Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Leyden, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Leyden is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

Other

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 3,013'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.